

**PART 255—CARRIER-OWNED COMPUTER RESERVATIONS SYSTEMS**

- 255.1 Purpose.
- 255.2 Applicability.
- 255.3 Definitions.
- 255.4 Display of information.
- 255.5 Defaults and service enhancements.
- 255.6 Contracts with participating carriers.
- 255.7 System owner participation in other systems.
- 255.8 Contracts with subscribers.
- 255.9 Use of third-party hardware, software and databases.
- 255.10 Marketing and booking information.
- 255.11 Exceptions.
- 255.12 Termination.

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EFFECTIVE DATE NOTE: At 57 FR 43834, Sept. 22, 1992, part 255 was revised, effective December 7, 1992 and will terminate December 31, 1997. At 62 FR 66274, Dec. 18, 1997, the effectiveness of part 255 was extended until Mar. 31, 1999. At 64 FR 15129, Mar. 30, 1999, the effectiveness of part 255 was extended until Mar. 31, 2000.

**§ 255.1 Purpose.**

(a) The purpose of this part is to set forth requirements for the operation by air carriers and their affiliates of computer reservations systems used by travel agents so as to prevent unfair, deceptive, predatory, and anticompetitive practices in air transportation.

(b) Nothing in this part operates to exempt any person from the operation of the antitrust laws set forth in subsection (a) of the first section of the Clayton Act (15 U.S.C. 12).

**§ 255.2 Applicability.**

This rule applies to air carriers and foreign air carriers that themselves or through an affiliate own, control, operate, or market computerized reservations systems for travel agents in the United States, and to the sale in the United States of interstate, overseas, and foreign air transportation and of other airline services through such systems. Each carrier that owns, controls, operates, or markets a system shall ensure that the system's operations comply with the requirements of this part.

**§ 255.3 Definitions.**

*Affiliate* means any person controlling, owned by, controlled by, or under common control with a carrier.

*Availability* means information provided in displays with respect to the seats carrier holds out as available for sale on a particular flight.

*Carrier* means any air carrier, any foreign air carrier, and any commuter air carrier, as defined in 49 U.S.C. 1301(3), 49 U.S.C. 1301(22), and 14 CFR 298.2(f), respectively, that is engaged directly in the operation of aircraft in passenger air transportation.

*Discriminate, discrimination, and discriminatory* mean, respectively, to discriminate unjustly, unjust discrimination, and unjustly discriminatory.

*Display* means that system's presentation of carrier schedules, fares, rules or availability to a subscriber by means of a computer terminal.

*Integrated display* means any display that includes the schedules, fares, rules, or availability of all or a significant proportion of the system's participating carriers.

*On-time performance code* means a single-character code supplied by a carrier to the vendor in accordance with the provisions of 14 CFR part 234 that reflects the monthly on-time performance history of a nonstop flight or one-stop or multi-stop single plane operation held out by the carrier in a CRS.

*Participating carrier* means a carrier, including a system owner, that has an agreement with a system for display of its schedules, fares, or seat availability, or for the making of reservations or issuance of tickets through a system.

*Service enhancement* means any product or service offered to subscribers or participating carriers in conjunction with a system other than the basic display of information on schedules, fares, rules, and availability, and the basic ability to make reservations or issue tickets for air transportation.

*Subscriber* means a ticket agent, as defined in 49 U.S.C. 1301(40), that holds itself out as a neutral source of information about, or tickets for, the air transportation industry and that uses a system.

*System* means a computerized reservations system offered by a carrier or